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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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T LESTER WALLACE
6601 KOLL CENTER PARKWAY
SUITE 245
PLEASANTON, CA 94566

EXAMINER

LESNIEWSKI, VICTOR D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/864,479

Applicant(s)

HORSTMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Victor Lesniewski

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/23/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined.
2. Claims 1-23 are now pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The IDS filed on 5/23/2001 has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-6 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,237,026), hereinafter referred to as Prasad, in view of Pivowar et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,308,201), hereinafter referred to as Pivowar.

6. Prasad disclosed a computer conferencing environment where computers can automatically enroll to a conference. In an analogous art, Pivowar disclosed a method for sharing data among a plurality of personal digital assistants. This system is focused on data sharing, just as Prasad's, and contains a central computer or server directly connected to a network such as the Internet through which other computers or clients can be connected.

7. Concerning claim 1, Prasad's system uses a central computer to organize a conference by storing related information and allowing access to this information by the conference attendees.

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However, Prasad did not explicitly state that his system utilized personal proxies for each attendee where each attendee could store conference information of their own. Pivowar's system does disclose this though. Pivowar uses a computer system for each user as a proxy to store information which is separate from the user's personal digital assistant or in this case, their real identity. Pivowar goes on to state the flexibility of this proxy by stating that it can be separate from both the client and server or that its functionality can be combined with one or the other. See column 5, lines 1-6. Since the inventions encompass the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Prasad by adding the ability to use a personal proxy to aid users in sharing data as provided by Pivowar. This would make sense because it would allow users more control over their data including what data they decide to share or not to share in a conferencing environment. This motivation also applies to those dependent claims utilizing the same combination.

8. Thereby, the combination of Prasad and Pivowar discloses:

- <Claim 1>

A method, comprising: (a) using conference software executing on an organizer computer system to define a conference and to store conference information associated with the conference, the conference information including a list of attendees, the conference information being stored on the organizer computer system (Prasad, column 2, lines 54-66 and column 5, lines 26-46); (b) at the conference a wireless device of a first attendee establishes wireless communication with the organizer computer system (Prasad, column 3, lines 27-51); (c) if the first attendee is on the list of attendees then the first attendee is

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registered with the conference software (Prasad, column 6, lines 1-20), each attendee registered has a personal proxy (Pivowar, figure 1, item 106 and column 5, lines 1-6) and a real identity (Pivowar, figure 1, item 102); (d) upon registration the first attendee receives access to updated conference information via the first attendee's wireless device (Prasad, column 6, lines 28-34), the updated conference information including the list of attendees, at least a part of the updated conference information being moved into the personal proxy of the first attendee (Pivowar, column 6, line 20 through column 7, line 38); (e) the first attendee during the conference updates the conference information by modifying first attendee sharing information within the conference information, the first attendee sharing information being information provided by the first attendee that is shared with other attendees, the first attendee sharing information being stored on the organizer computer system (Pivowar, column 2, lines 35-43 and 54-59); (f) a second attendee having a registered wireless device accesses the conference information as updated in (e) and moves at least part of the first attendee sharing information into the personal proxy of the second attendee (Pivowar, column 6, line 20 through column 7, line 38); (g) the second attendee looks through conference information stored in the second attendee's personal proxy and moves a selected part of that information to the second attendee's real identity (Pivowar, column 6, line 20 through column 7, line 38); and (h) the first attendee looks through conference information stored in the first attendee's personal proxy and moves a selected part of that information to the first attendee's real identity (Pivowar, column 6, line 20 through column 7, line 38).

- <Claim 2>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the first attendee uses the first attendee's wireless device to update the conference information in (e) (Pivowar, column 5, lines 44-52).

- <Claim 3>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the first attendee uses a personal computer to update the conference information in (e), the personal computer being coupled to the organizer computer system via the internet (Pivowar, figure 1, item 106 and column 5, lines 1-6).

- <Claim 4>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the wireless device of the first attendee is taken from the group consisting of a WAP phone or a PDA, and wherein the wireless device of the second attendee is taken from the group consisting of a WAP phone or a PDA (Pivowar, column 4, lines 20-29).

- <Claim 5>

The method of Claim 1, wherein a conference organizer defines the conference in step (a), the conference organizer also being an attendee on the list of attendees, the conference organizer attending the conference and having a registered wireless device (Prasad, column 2, lines 54-66 and Pivowar, figure 1, item 102).

- <Claim 6>

The method of Claim 1, wherein a conference organizer defines the conference in step (a) by entering the list of attendees using the conference software and by entering a conference time using the conference software (Prasad, column 5, lines 26-46).

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- <Claim 9>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the first attendee updates the conference information in (e) by providing links to selected information stored on a computer other than the organizer computer system (Pivowar, column 2, lines 35-43).

- <Claim 10>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the first attendee updates the conference information in (e) by moving the first attendee sharing information from the first attendee's real identity to the organizer computer system, the first attendee using the first attendee's wireless device to initiate the move (Pivowar, column 2, lines 54-59).

- <Claim 11>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the part of the updated conference information moved into the personal proxy of the first attendee in (d) is an agenda of the conference (Pivowar, column 2, lines 35-43 and Prasad, column 5, lines 37-39).

Since the combination of Prasad and Pivowar discloses all of the above limitations, claims 1-6 and 9-11 are rejected.

9. Claims 7, 8, 14-18, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Pivowar, as applied above, in view of Thurlow et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,057,841), hereinafter referred to as Thurlow.

10. The combination of Prasad and Pivowar disclosed a computer conferencing system where the users utilize personal proxies in order to aid in data sharing. In an analogous art, Thurlow disclosed methods for processing electronic messages based on certain rules. Thurlow's system

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for organizing email is meant to be used in business or conference-like situations. See column 1, lines 22-26.

11. Concerning claims 7, 8, 14, and 21, the combination of Prasad and Pivowar did not disclose the use of a mailbox at both the client and the personal proxy. However, Thurlow's email system points to the known trend of maintaining both of these mailboxes for each user. Since the inventions encompass the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Prasad and Pivowar by adding the ability to maintain a mailbox at both the client and the personal proxy as provided by Thurlow. This would make sense because the ability to utilize email is a clear extension of the data transfer capabilities already available to the users of the combination of Prasad and Pivowar. This motivation also applies to those dependent claims utilizing the same combination.

12. Concerning claim 18, in addition to the above, Thurlow is not explicit in his naming scheme for user mailbox addresses. Here, however, it is sufficiently shown above that the users maintain a personal proxy mailbox and naming schemes for mailboxes such as this were well known in the art at the time of the applicant's invention. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to use a two-part naming scheming such as the one in claim 18.

13. Thereby, the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Thurlow discloses:

- <Claim 7>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the personal proxy of an attendee includes storage space disposed on the organizer computer system where the attendee can store conference

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information, and wherein the real identity of an attendee includes a second storage space identified by an email address, the attendee using the second storage space to store more than information associated with the conference (Thurlow, column 16, line 52 through column 17, line 3).

- <Claim 8>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the personal proxy of an attendee includes a first mailbox, and wherein the real identity of the attendee is a second mailbox (Thurlow, column 16, line 52 through column 17, line 3).

- <Claim 14>

A system comprising: a computer system comprising a wireless communication station, the wireless communication station being disposed at a conference location, the computer system storing a list of conference attendees (Prasad, column 2, lines 54-66, column 5, lines 26-46, and column 3, lines 27-51), the computer system maintaining a personal proxy mailbox for an attendee on the list of conference attendees, the attendee having another mailbox that is not maintained by the computer system (Thurlow, column 16, line 52 through column 17, line 3); and a wireless device that communicates at the conference location with the wireless communication station, the wireless device being usable: 1) to retrieve an indication of the personal proxy mailbox from the computer system, and 2) to send a message to the personal proxy mailbox of the attendee using the indication of the personal proxy mailbox retrieved from the computer system (Prasad, column 5, lines 40-46).

- <Claim 15>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the indication of the personal proxy mailbox is the name of the personal proxy mailbox maintained on the computer system, the indication of the personal proxy mailbox being retrieved by the wireless device as part of the list of conference attendees (Prasad, column 5, lines 40-46).

- <Claim 16>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the computer system stores a conference agenda, the wireless device being usable to retrieve and display the conference agenda (Prasad, column 5, lines 37-39).

- <Claim 17>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the computer system stores information about an exhibit of a first conference exhibitor and stores information about an exhibit of a second conference exhibitor, the computer system having an interface that allows the first conference exhibitor to modify the information about the exhibit of the first conference exhibitor but does not allow the first conference exhibitor to modify the information about the exhibit of the second conference exhibitor, and wherein the interface allows the second conference exhibitor to modify the information about the exhibit of the second conference exhibitor but does not allow the second conference exhibitor to modify the information about the exhibit of the first conference exhibitor (Pivowar, column 6, line 20 through column 7, line 38).

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- <Claim 18>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the attendee has a name, and wherein the indication of the personal proxy mailbox has a first part and a second part, the first part being indicative of the name of the attendee, the second part being indicative of a conference name (Thurlow, column 16, line 52 through column 17, line 3, and obviousness).

- <Claim 21>

A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of: maintaining a list of conference attendees on a conference organizer's computer system (Prasad, column 2, lines 54-66 and column 5, lines 26-46), each of the conference attendees having a corresponding wireless device (Prasad, column 3, lines 27-51); maintaining on the conference organizer's computer system a personal proxy mailbox for each the conference attendees on the list of conference attendees (Thurlow, column 16, line 52 through column 17, line 3); interfacing the conference organizer's computer system with a wireless communication station such that the conference organizer's computer system can communicate in wireless fashion with the wireless devices of conference attendees when the wireless devices are present at a conference (Prasad, column 3, lines 27-51); registering conference attendees on the list of conference attendees (Prasad, column 6, lines 1-34); and allowing a first wireless device of a first registered conference attendee to select a second registered conference attendee from the list of conference attendees and to send a message the personal proxy mailbox of second registered conference attendee, wherein the second registered conference attendee has a primary email address other than the personal proxy mailbox of the second registered

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conference attendee, the primary email address of the second registered conference attendee not being divulged to the first registered conference attendee (Thurlow, column 16, line 52 through column 17, line 3).

- <Claim 22>

The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, wherein the conference has a duration, and wherein the conference organizer's computer system allows a conference attendee to access his/her personal proxy mailbox only for a period of time that roughly corresponds to the duration of the conference (Prasad, column 5, lines 33-39).

- <Claim 23>

The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, wherein the computer-readable medium is taken from the group consisting of: an optical disc, a hard disk, a floppy disk, a magnetic tape, and a semiconductor memory (Prasad, column 3, lines 10-23).

Since the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Thurlow discloses all of the above limitations, claims 7, 8, 14-18, and 21-23 are rejected.

14. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Pivowar, as applied above, in view of Adamson et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,717,863), hereinafter referred to as Adamson.

15. The combination of Prasad and Pivowar disclosed a computer conferencing system where the users utilize personal proxies in order to aid in data sharing. In an analogous art, Adamson disclosed methods for managing connection addresses in a personal computer conference. Just

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as the combination of Prasad and Pivowar, Adamson's system is focused on computer conferencing.

16. Although the combination of Prasad and Pivowar did not disclose the use of an electronic business card by an attendee, Adamson's system includes functionality allowing attendees to create, edit, send, receive, save, and browse electronic business cards. Since the inventions encompass the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Prasad and Pivowar by adding the ability for attendees to use electronic business cards as provided by Adamson. This would make sense because these business cards would aid users in the transfer and storage of useful personal information.

17. Thereby, the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Adamson discloses:

- <Claim 12>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the part of the updated conference information moved into the personal proxy of the first attendee in (d) is an electronic business card of an attendee (Adamson, column 2, lines 26-40).

Since the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Adamson discloses all of the above limitations, claim 12 is rejected.

18. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Pivowar, as applied above, in view of Hoffer (U.S. Patent Number 5,799,151).

19. The combination of Prasad and Pivowar disclosed a computer conferencing system where the users utilize personal proxies in order to aid in data sharing. In an analogous art, Hoffer

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disclosed an interactive trade network that integrates distributive messaging. Just as the combination of Prasad and Pivowar, Hoffer's system is focused on computer conferencing.

20. Although the combination of Prasad and Pivowar did not disclose the use of a message board for posting messages by the attendees, Hoffer's system involves the creation and maintenance of topic boards in a collaborative messaging environment. Since the inventions encompass the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Prasad and Pivowar by adding the ability for attendees to use message boards as provided by Hoffer. This would make sense because these message boards would allow users to participate in easier, more efficient communication.

21. Thereby, the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Hoffer discloses:

• <Claim 13>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the conference information stored on the organizer computer system includes a message board, the message board being accessible by the first attendee using the first attendee's wireless device, the message board being accessible by the second attendee using the second attendee's wireless device, the message board containing messages for multiple attendees (Hoffer, column 6, line 60 through column 7, line 15).

Since the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Hoffer discloses all of the above limitations, claim 13 is rejected.

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22. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Pivowar in view of Thurlow, as applied above, in view of Hoffer.

23. The combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Thurlow disclosed a computer conferencing system where the users utilize personal proxies, including mailboxes, in order to aid in data sharing. In an analogous art, Hoffer disclosed an interactive trade network that integrates distributive messaging. Just as the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Thurlow, Hoffer's system is focused on computer conferencing.

24. Although the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Thurlow did not disclose the use of a message board for posting messages by the attendees, Hoffer's system involves the creation and maintenance of topic boards in a collaborative messaging environment. Since the inventions encompass the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Thurlow by adding the ability for attendees to use message boards as provided by Hoffer. This would make sense because these message boards would allow users to participate in easier, more efficient communication.

25. Thereby, the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, Thurlow, and Hoffer discloses:

- <Claim 19>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the computer system maintains a message board, the wireless device being usable to place a message on the message board, the wireless device being usable to read a message from the message board. (Hoffer, column 6, line 60 through column 7, line 15).

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Since the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, Thurlow, and Hoffer discloses all of the above limitations, claim 19 is rejected.

26. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Pivowar in view of Thurlow, as applied above, in view of Bouve et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,682,525), hereinafter referred to as Bouve.

27. The combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Thurlow disclosed a computer conferencing system where the users utilize personal proxies, including mailboxes, in order to aid in data sharing. In an analogous art, Bouve disclosed a system for remotely accessing a group of items from a database. Bouve's system utilizes a remote device to access information from a central computer just as can be done in a computer conferencing system like that of the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Thurlow.

28. Although the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Thurlow did not disclose the use of a map of the conference location, Bouve's system is focused on providing the user with a map of a specific location of interest. Since the inventions encompass the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, and Thurlow by adding the ability for attendees to access a map of a specific location as provided by Bouve. This would make sense because a map of the conference location would help the attendees stay organized.

29. Thereby, the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, Thurlow, and Bouve discloses:

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- <Claim 20>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the computer system stores a map of the conference location, the wireless device being usable to retrieve from the computer system and to display the map on the wireless device (Bouve, column 2, lines 45-52).

Since the combination of Prasad, Pivowar, Thurlow, and Bouve discloses all of the above limitations, claim 20 is rejected.

Conclusion

30. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure.

- Lubachevsky (U.S. Patent Number 5,721,764) disclosed a conference mailbox service.
- DeSimone et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,011,782) disclosed a method for transmitting and receiving conferencing information on an IP network.
- Pizano et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,105,055) disclosed a multimedia collaboration system for information sharing and distribution.
- Lindgren (U.S. Patent Number 6,163,274) disclosed a system for making data changes or updates to a remote PDA.
- Skarbo et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,317,777) disclosed a document-collaboration videoconferencing system between conference attendees.
- Bearden, III et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,347,301) disclosed a conference communication facilitator.

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- Gershman et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,401,085) disclosed a system for web-based information retrieval and display using a wireless phone or similar device.
- Dickie et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,643,687) disclosed an email system that implements proxy email addresses.

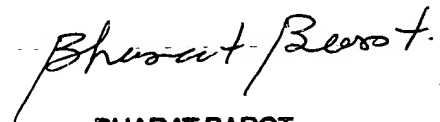
31. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor Lesniewski whose telephone number currently is 703-308-6165, and beginning October 27 is 571-272-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 703-308-6662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Victor Lesniewski
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2155



BHARAT BAROT
PRIMARY EXAMINER